<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend Claims 9-12, and add Claim 13 as follows:

1 - 8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended) An image input/output control method for a device that <u>transfers an input image to a memory and outputs the input image from the memory,</u> ~~performs a compressed image storage step of compressing an input image using variable length compression to store the compressed input image in a memory in the case of a non-black-and-white copy mode, and an output step of outputting the compressed input image stored in the compressed image storage step,~~ the method comprising:

~~an uncompressed image storage step of storing an input image in the memory without compressing the input image in the case of the~~ a~~-black-and-white copy mode; and~~

~~a control step of performing control so as to start the output of the stored image while the image is being stored in the memory in the uncompressed image storage step~~

<u>a step of, in the case of a color copy mode, compressing an input image using variable length compression, transferring the compressed input image to the memory, and initiating output of the compressed input image from the memory after the transfer of the compressed input image terminates; and</u>

<u>a step of, in the case of a black-and-white copy mode, transferring an input image to the memory without compressing the input image, and initiating output of the transferred input image from the memory while the input image is being transferred to the memory.</u>

10.   (Currently Amended) The image input/output control method according to claim 9, wherein ~~whether to perform either the compressed image storage step or~~

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~~uncompressed image storage step~~ <u>the step to be performed</u> is determined in accordance with a setting concerning a copy job including the black-and-white copy mode.

11.   (Currently Amended) An image input/output control apparatus <u>that</u> <u>transfers an input image to a memory and outputs the input image from the memory,</u> ~~having compressed image storage means for compressing an input image using variable length compression to store the compressed input image in a memory in the case of a non-black-and-white copy mode, and output means for outputting the compressed input image stored by said compressed image storage means,~~ said apparatus comprising:

    <u>means for, in the case of a color copy mode, compressing an input image using</u> <u>variable length compression, transferring the compressed input image to the memory, and</u> <u>initiating output of the compressed input image from the memory after the transfer of the</u> <u>compressed input image terminates; and</u>

    <u>means for, in the case of a black-and-white copy mode, transferring an input image</u> <u>to the memory without compressing the input image, and initiating output of the transferred</u> <u>input image from the memory while the input image is being transferred to the memory.</u>

    ~~uncompressed image storage means for storing an input image in the memory without compressing the input image in the case of a black-and-white copy mode; and~~

    ~~control means for performing control so as to start the output of the stored image while the image is being stored in the memory by said uncompressed image storage means.~~

12.   (Currently Amended) The image input/output control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein <u>the means to be used</u> ~~whether to use either said compressed image storage means or uncompressed image storage means~~ is determined in accordance with a setting concerning a copy job including the black-and-white copy mode.

13. (New) An image input/output control method for a device that transfers an input image to a memory and outputs the input image from the memory, the method comprising:

a step of, in the case of a color copy mode, compressing an input image using variable length compression, transferring the compressed input image to the memory, and initiating output of the compressed input image from the memory after the transfer of the compressed input image terminates; and

a step of, in the case of a black-and-white copy mode, compressing an input image using fixed length compression, transferring the compressed input image to the memory, and initiating output of the transferred compressed input image from the memory while the compressed input image is being transferred to the memory.